

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 6 DEC 51

SUBJECT Government Radiator and Boiler Factory
in Zrenjanin Controlled by the Workers Council

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1. The Government Radiator and Boiler Factory is located at 88 Mileticева Street in Zrenjanin. Prior to World War II this factory was owned by Doctor Milan Markovic, reportedly a former cabinet minister. In July 1951, the officials of the factory were:
 - a. Manager - Milorad Djordjevic, a former textile worker
 - b. Technical Manager - Bosko Nikolic, a former technician
 - c. Chief of Personnel - Cvetko Lazic, a former farmer.
2. The Government Radiator and Boiler Factory was constructed in the shape of two wings, each approximately 80 meters long and 15 meters wide. All of the buildings occupied by the factory had been constructed prior to World War II. The factory contained the following workshops and divisions:
 - a. Machine shop directed by Mihajlo Kulic. The machine shop was equipped with four old German lathes, and a new lathe which had been constructed by the Pottsijske Factory in Ada, Yugoslavia; two old German planing machines, one old German press, one old German milling machine and an old German threader.
 - b. Carpenter shop directed by Josip Gunilkovic, which was equipped with a mechanical saw, an old German joiner and an old German lathe.
 - c. Assembling and finishing shop directed by Josef Asler, which was equipped with four old Neo Vulkan milling machines of Hungarian manufacture; one old German grinder, one new boring machine of Hungarian manufacture and various other unspecified tools.
 - d. Foundry and pattern shop both directed by Nikola Djordjevic, who was also political secretary of the factory committee of the Communist Party. The foundry was equipped with two furnaces which had been constructed in the factory workshops. Each of these furnaces had a capacity of 12 tons per 24 hours and had to be operated alternately

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owing to the fact that the insulation was inadequate and had to be changed for each casting.

- e. Control office, the function of which was to fix the production quotas for the workers.
 - f. Garage which housed an old German seven-ton truck and old three-ton Ford truck.
3. The factory operated on a six-day week schedule, on the basis of three eight-hour shifts daily. The daily production was 12 tons a day, approximately 40 per cent of which usually had to be recast because it was found to be faulty. There was a shortage of coke and scrap iron, both of which had to be imported from Germany. The manager allegedly complained that equipment furnished by factories in Velika Kikinda and the Petar Drapsin Government Enterprise in Novi Sad was inadequate. During June 1951 the price of radiators and boilers increased by 1,300 per cent as a consequence of an increase of from 2 to 10 dinars per kilogram in the price of scrap iron.

4. [redacted] the factory salaries and wages received by employees were as follows: 50X1-HUM

- a. Manager - 5,000 dinars per month
 - b. Technical Manager and Chief of Personnel - 4,000 dinars each per month
 - c. Director of foundry and pattern shop, who also served as political secretary - 7,000 dinars per month
 - d. Clerical employees - between 3,000 and 5,000 dinars per month
 - e. Piece workers were able to earn according to their individual output; however, as soon as their wages averaged higher than the wages of other workers, their production quota was increased.
5. During November 1950 in accordance with an order of the Federal Government, a Workers Council assumed direction of the Government Radiator and Boiler Factory. This Workers Council comprised 30 persons elected by all the employees at the factory from a list of names proposed by the political secretary of the factory committee of the Communist Party. Every member of the Workers Council was a Communist Party member; 28 of them were laborers and foremen, while the remaining 2 were clerical employees.
6. Immediately after they had been elected, the members of the Workers Council appointed an executive committee whose function was to manage the factory. The Workers Council and the Executive Committee theoretically had the right to employ or discharge all laborers and clerical employees, but had no jurisdiction over the manager of the factory, inasmuch as the latter was appointed by the Economic Directorate of the local People's Republic. The Workers Council theoretically also had the right to assign or to change production quotas.
7. The creation of the Workers Council reportedly brought no changes in the administration and operation of the factory, which was still directly under the control of the manager, the political secretary and the chief of personnel.

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- a. The chief of the Control Office was required to report to the manager of the factory each week concerning the output of the workers in comparison with the production quotas which had been set. As soon as some of the workers began to exceed their quota, following a conference between the manager, the political secretary and the chief of personnel, and without previous consultation with the Workers Council, an order was issued to increase existing production quotas.

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- b. On frequent occasions the factory received orders from the Economic Directorate in Belgrade to dismiss a number of workers because of the shortage of coke and other essential materials. The manager in consultation with the political secretary and chief of personnel would decide which workers were to be dismissed without previously conferring with members of the Workers Council.

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